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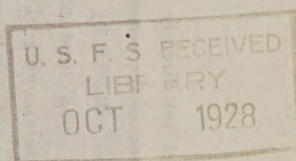
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FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH IN PICTURES

NO. 34

**FAILURE OF UNTREATED POST
THROUGH DECAY**



**FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
MADISON, WISCONSIN**

This is a frame building corner post set directly in the soil without preservative treatment. Although the rest of the structure is good for many years of service, this post has been so softened by decay that rats chose to gnaw through the six inches of decayed wood rather than attack the soil or siding nearby. The failure and telescoping of the post at this point caused a sagging of the building frame which in turn caused difficulty in opening and closing the sliding door at the left. Except for heartwood of the more durable species, posts and other wooden members near or in contact with the ground should be given a good preservative treatment or at least be end-dipped in hot creosote if more than temporary service is desired.

A quantity of timber equal to two-thirds the annual growth on all our forests — about 4 billion cubic feet — is used to replace wood destroyed by decay in service every year.

(Photograph by Forest Products Laboratory, U. S. Forest Service)



